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CIA exemption on data opposed

Washington (AP)—Freeing the Central Intelligence Agency from most demands of the Freedom of Information Act would create "a curtain of secrecy that is simply unnecessary," a spokesman for American newspaper editors told Congress yesterday.

The Freedom of Information Act section in a proposed national intelligence charter, "by creating a new and sweeping exemption [for the CIA], would prohibit legitimate historical and journalistic research," Joseph R. L. Sterne, *The Sun's* editorial page editor, told a Senate Intelligence Committee hearing on a charter to establish rules for American foreign intelligence operations.

The Baltimore editor also said the proposed exemption is not needed because the CIA already has authority to withhold any information its officials feel would harm the national interest if released.

Mr. Sterne was speaking on behalf of Charles W. Bailey, editor of *The Minneapolis Tribune* and chairman of the American Society of Newspaper Editors' Freedom of Information Committee.